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Title: Need to run Thiruchendur Express daily from Thiruchendur to Chennai via Chord line in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Thiruchendur is one of the important six abodes of Lord Karthik. It is a pilgrim town that attracts devotees from all over the country and abroad throughout the year. Among the temple festivals in Thiruchendur temple, Skanda Shasti is very famous one. However, Thiruchendur does not have proper rail connectivity to the State Capital, Chennai and other places.

After conversion of Broad Gauge and persistent demand from the general public and the pilgrims, the Chendur Express connecting Thiruchendur and Chennai was inaugurated last year as a weekly Express. This train passes through Villupuram, Trichy, Madurai, Tirunelveli via Chord line. At the time of introduction, it was assured that this train would run 5 days in a week and later it will be converted into daily train. Besides, the Railway authorities also notified that the Chendur Express would run 5 days a week via Chord line and the coaches had also arrived at Thiruchendur. During April 2010, the main line between Villupuram-Mayiladuthurai was opened after gauge conversion. However, the frequency of Chendur Express has not yet been increased. As a result, the people in Southern Tamil Nadu, the pilgrims, women and children are facing a lot of difficulties. Buses are often over-crowded and the private operators are over charging and amassing huge profits. This is a highly profitable route and tickets are booked well in advance. Railways are running special trains every now and then to cope with the rush of passengers.

I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister of Railways to run Thiruchendur Express (Train No. 6735/6736-Chennai Egmore-Thiruchendur-Chennai Egmore) as a daily train Via Chord Line.